

Fact Sheet July 2003

PUBLIC TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT REMOVAL ACTION WORKPLAN AT O'HARA PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL OAKLEY, CALIFORNIA



30-DAY COMMENT PERIOD

*DTSC is one of six
Boards and
Departments within
the California
Environmental
Protection Agency.
The Department's
mission is to restore,
protect and enhance
the environment,
to ensure public health,
environmental
quality and
economic vitality,
by regulating
hazardous waste,
conducting and
overseeing
cleanups, and
developing
and promoting
pollution prevention.*

State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



Why am I receiving this fact sheet?

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is providing this fact sheet to inform nearby residences of the public comment period for the Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) being submitted by the Oakley Union Elementary School District for the O'Hara Park Middle School Site in Oakley, California. The 10-car parking lot where the removal will take place is located at the northwest corner of O'Hara Park Middle School on O'Hara Avenue.

What this fact sheet tells you:

- Overall site history and background
- What was found at the site
- What is the draft RAW
- Proposed cleanup remedy
- Future activities

Overall site history and background

During the construction of the 10-car parking lot in 1988, Sierra-Crete® was used as a base material beneath the asphalt. Sierra-Crete® is a structural road-base material that was manufactured at the former DuPont facility located in Oakley, California, between the years 1988-1997. In early 2002 when it was discovered that Sierra-Crete® contained traces of dioxins and other substances, DuPont contacted

Public Review and 30-Day Comment Period

DTSC encourages the public to review and comment on the Draft RAW being proposed. DTSC will conduct a 30-day Public Comment Period which begins on Monday, July 14, 2003 and ends on Tuesday, August, 12, 2003.

Mail written comments to: DTSC, Attn: Jennifer Jones, Project Manager, 1011 North Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201 or via e-mail at jjones@dtsc.ca.gov. All mail must be postmarked by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 12, 2003. E-mailed comments must be sent to the Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on the same date.

DTSC may hold a public meeting for this project if there is significant public interest.

DTSC, Contra Costa County Health Department, and the cities of Antioch, Oakley, and Pittsburg. A Human Health Risk Assessment was conducted and further investigation was determined to be needed. The Oakley Union Elementary School District (OUESD) entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with DTSC and conducted a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA). In May 2003 results from the PEA and additional testing at other sites showed dioxins as well as hexavalent chromium in the Sierra-Crete®. The levels of these chemicals are above the DTSC health risk standards set up for school properties. As a result of these findings, a removal action should be conducted to remove and eliminate the risk posed by these potentially harmful substance. Once the cleanup at the school takes place and the impacted material (Sierra-Crete®) is removed, the potential risk associated with this material will be gone and the site will meet environmental and safety standards for schools.

What was found at the site?

As indicated above dioxins, hexavalent chromium and other metals have been found in Sierra-Crete® samples collected both from independent testing and the County Health Department's Task Force. At the O'Hara Park Middle School's 10-car parking lot only low levels of dioxins were found in the Sierra-Crete®. Based on the results of previous samplings at other sites, the Sierra-Crete® was deemed to present a potential safety hazard if not properly removed. OUESD determined, and DTSC agreed, that the Sierra-Crete® should be removed and any impacted subsoil be removed as well.

What is the Removal Action Workplan? (Proposed Cleanup Activities)

The Draft RAW is a cleanup plan summarizing the proposed removal of the Sierra-

Crete® and cleanup activities at the site. The following cleanup methods are proposed:

- The asphalt and underlying Sierra-Crete® will be removed from the 10-car parking lot at the school.
- Approximately 65 cubic yards of material will be removed and transported to an approved disposal facility.
- Dust control measures will be implemented.
- Approximately 4 truck loads of material will be removed.
- The removal action and complete restoration of the parking lot will be completed in 5 days.

What will I see during the cleanup?

You will see personnel on the site using standard backhoe machinery as well as safety gear. As the Sierra-Crete® is dug up, it will be direct-loaded onto trucks for transport and disposal. Any stockpiled material will be placed on plastic and immediately covered to prevent wind erosion or contact with rain. The removed material will be put on covered trucks and taken to the Keller Canyon Landfill in Pittsburg.

A low visibility/permeability windscreen will be installed around the perimeters of the excavation areas, and dust will be controlled by spraying water on the excavation areas. Air will be monitored for dust levels at the site perimeter and worker breathing zones.

Trucks will leave the site to proceed north on O'Hara Avenue, west on Highway 4, and south on Bailey Road to the Keller Canyon Landfill.

Future Activities

After the public comment period has ended, DTSC will review all comments received and

make any relevant changes to the cleanup plan. At the same time DTSC accepts or denies the Draft RAW, anyone who submitted comments will receive DTSC's Response to Comments document. This document provides all of the comments submitted during the comment period and DTSC's response to those comments. A copy of the Response to Comments will be placed in the repositories below which have been established for the site and will be mailed to those who submitted comments. If the Draft RAW is approved, the Sierra-Crete® cleanup plan will be put into action.

Where can I find the documents?

The PEA and the draft RAW can be reviewed at these locations:

California Environmental Protection Agency

Department of Toxic Substances Control

8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200
Ms. Jennifer Jones, Project Manager
(818) 551-2973

File Room:

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
By appointment only (916) 255-3758

Oakley Library

1050 Neroly Road
(inside Freedom High School)
Oakley, CA 94561

Oakley Union Elementary School District Office

91 Mercedes Lane, Oakley, CA 94561

O'Hara Park Middle School Administrative Office

1100 O'Hara Avenue
O'Hara, CA 94561

For More Information

If you would like more information or have questions on the draft Removal Action Workplan, please contact Ms. Jennifer Jones, Project Manager at (818) 551-2973 or Mr. James C. Haslip, Ed.D., Superintendent at (925) 625-0700. For questions about the public participation process, contact Ms. Michelle Trotter, Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-6441. For media questions, please contact Ms. Angela Blanchette at (510) 540-3732.

California Environmental Quality Act

This removal action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because it will not have a significant impact on the environment. A Notice of Exemption is included in the Removal Action Workplan.

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at (1-888-877-5378) and ask to speak to Ms. Trotter at (916) 255-6441.

Glossary

DIOXIN – A group of organic compounds associated with a variety of health effects, including cancer.

HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM – A form of chromium, a naturally occurring metal in the environment used in the metal, tanning and paint industries. In this form, it is a cancer-causing agent, if inhaled.

PRELIMINARY ENDANGERMENT ASSESSMENT (PEA) – Provides basic information for determining if there has been a release of a hazardous substances that presents a risk to human health or the environment.

REMOVAL ACTION WORKPLAN (RAW) –
A plan of activities taken at a site to address
a known or potential environmental problem,
and prepared after completion of a PEA.

If you would like more information about
DTSC, please visit our website at
www.dtsc.ca.gov

Mailing List

If you have any comments concerning the O'Hara Park Middle School's Removal Action Workplan or if you would like to be put on the site specific mailing list, please take a moment to fill out the information below and mail it to Ms. Michelle Trotter, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826.

DTSC mailing lists are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records, and if requested may be subject to release.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Comments: _____



Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200
Attention: Michelle Trotter

Inside:

The public is invited to comment on the O'Hara Park Middle School's Removal Action Workplan